

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for reducing the formaldehyde and/or cyanide contents in technically produced solutions of sarcosine salts,  
5 **characterized in that**  
the starting solution is subjected to a thermal treatment in such a way that the starting solution  
a1) at an approximately equimolar ratio of  
10 formaldehyde and cyanide components of 1:0.9 to 1.1, is adjusted to temperatures between 20 and 120°C,  
or  
a2) at a non-equimolar ratio of formaldehyde and cyanide components, is heated to temperatures between  
15 120 and 200°C,  
and  
b) is finally cooled down.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1,  
20 **characterized in that**  
the duration of the thermal treatment is 1 to 300 minute(s) and particularly preferably 40 to 60 minutes.
- 25 3. The method as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, **characterized in that**,  
in the case a1), the starting solution is adjusted, by addition of calculated amounts of formaldehyde or cyanide, to an approximately equimolar ratio of these  
30 two compounds.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3, **characterized in that**,  
in the case a1), the calculated amount of formaldehyde  
35 or cyanide is added in the form of an aqueous solution.
5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, **characterized in that**

the starting solution in the case a1) is adjusted to temperatures between 60 and 110°C and particularly preferably 90 to 105°C.

- 5     6.     The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4,  
         **characterized in that**  
         the starting solution in the case a2) is heated to  
         temperatures of between 140 and 170°C.
- 10    7.     The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6,  
         **characterized in that,**  
         in the case a2), it is carried out under pressure  
         conditions  $\leq 10$  bar.
- 15    8.     The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7,  
         **characterized in that**  
         the formaldehyde content is reduced to values  $< 50$  ppm  
         and the cyanide content is reduced to values  $< 10$  ppm,  
         particularly preferably in a 40% by weight sarcosinate  
20    solution.
9.     The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8,  
         **characterized in that,**  
         before or during the thermal treatment according to a1)  
25    or a2), educts, such as, e.g., methylamine, and/or  
         byproducts, such as, e.g., ammonia, were separated from  
         the starting solution by distillation.
- 30    10.    The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9,  
         **characterized in that**  
         the sarcosinate solution treated according to a1) or  
         a2) is used as raw material for the manufacture of  
         creatine.